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preferably in the range of 10 to 300 Torr. The reason for limiting the pressure of the gaseous fluorinating agent in the range of 1 to 760 Torr is that control of the extent of reaction, i.e., control of the thickness of the fluoride layer, is facilitated.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 3.

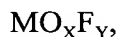
Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy following this amendment to read as follows.

1. (Amended) A FPD protecting film comprising:

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a film body comprising of any one of MgO, CaO, SrO, BaO, alkali earth compound oxides, rare earth oxides, or compound oxides of alkali earth oxides and rare earth oxides, wherein the film body is present on the surface of a substrate; and

a fluoride layer present on the surface of the film body, wherein the fluoride layer is represented by the formula



wherein M is Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, an alkali earth complex metal, a rare earth metal, or a complex metal of an alkali earth metal and rare earth metal, $0 < X < 2$ and $1 \leq Y \leq 4$.

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4. (Amended) The FPD protecting film according to Claim 1, wherein the fluoride layer is obtained by reaction of a gaseous fluorinating agent with any one selected from the group consisting of MgO, CaO, SrO, BaO, an alkali earth compound oxide, a rare earth oxide, and a compound oxide of alkali earth oxides and rare earth oxides.

5. (Amended) The FPD protecting film according to Claim 4, wherein the gaseous fluorinating agent comprises a fluorine gas, a hydrogen fluoride gas, BF_3 , SbF_5 or SF_4 .
